

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A binder composition for a non-woven fabric, the binder composition comprising:

a latex, the latex including a heterogeneous blend of dispersed polymer particles and a surfactant, where the particles include from about 55 to about 100% by weight of a gelled polymer, from about 6 to about 11% by weight polymeric units bearing an acid functionality, and from about 35 to about 45% by weight units deriving from styrene, and where dried films of the latex exhibit a Tg of from about -50°C to about 60°C.

2. (Currently Amended) The binder composition of claim 1, where the polymer particles include from about 80 to about 93% by weight of a gelled polymer, where the polymer particles include from about [4]Z to about 11% by weight polymeric units bearing an acid functionality, and where dried films of the latex exhibit a Tg of from about -35°C to about 35°C.

3. (Previously Presented) The binder composition of claims 1, where the polymeric units bearing an acid functionality derive from acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, or mixtures thereof, and where the polymeric units bearing an acid functionality comprise from about 0 to about 3% by weight units deriving from itaconic acid, from about 2 to about 7% by weight units deriving from acrylic acid, and from about 1 to about 6% by weight units deriving from methacrylic acid.

4. (Original) The binder composition of claim 1, where the surfactant includes an alkali metal salt of an alkyl sulfosuccinate, sodium dodecyl diphenyloxide disulfonate, disodium stearyl sulfosuccinamate, or mixtures thereof.

5. (Original) The binder composition of claim 1, where the surfactant includes from about 50 to about 99% by weight sodium dihexyl sulfosuccinate compounds and from about 1 to about 50% by weight sodium dioctyl sulfosuccinate compounds.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Original) A non-woven fabric bound with the binder composition of claim 1.
8. (Original) A diaper sub-layer comprising a non-woven fabric bound with the binder composition of claim 1.
9. (Previously Presented) The binder composition of claim 2, where the polymeric units bearing an acid functionality derive from acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, or mixtures thereof, and where the polymeric units bearing an acid functionality comprise from about 0 to about 3% by weight units deriving from itaconic acid, from about 2 to about 7% by weight units deriving from acrylic acid, and from about 1 to about 6% by weight units deriving from methacrylic acid.
10. (Previously Presented) The binder composition of claim 1, where the polymer particles include from about 80 to about 93% by weight of a gelled polymer, where the polymer particles include from about 4 to about 11% by weight polymeric units bearing an acid functionality, and where dried films of the latex exhibit a Tg of from about -25°C to about 25°C.
11. (New) The binder composition of claim 1, where the latex comprises from about 0.44 to about 0.48 % by weight surfactant, based upon the total weight of monomer.
12. (New) The binder composition of claim 1, where the latex comprises 6 to about 11 % by weight polymeric units bearing an acid functionality.

13. (New) The binder composition of claim 1, where the particles include from about 2.5 to about 5 % by weight polymeric units derived from methacrylic acid, from about 1 to about 2 % by weight polymeric units derived from itaconic acid, and from about 2.5 to about 5 % by weight units derived from acrylic acid.

14. (New) The binder composition of claim 1, where the particles include from about 2 to about 6 % by weight polymeric units derived from methacrylic acid, from about 0.5 to about 3 % by weight polymeric units derived from itaconic acid, and from about 2 to about 6 % by weight units derived from acrylic acid.